ABSTRACT

A print engine/controller (10) configured to be coupled with others to drive an ink drop printhead ·
(33). It has an interface (27) at which to receive compressed page data. Image decoders (28, 88)
decode compressed image planes in the received compressed page data. A half-toner/compositer
(29) a half-toner/compositer composites respective strips of the decoded image planes by
halftoning a contone layer to a bi-level version and compositing a spot1 bi-level layer over an
appropriate halftoned contone layer. A printhead interface (32) interfaces with the printhead. A
synchronization signal generator (89,90) outputs a synchronization signal that is used to
synchronize print engine/controllers. In some embodiments, one printhead interface (32) acts as
master generating the synchronization signal to synchronize all the print engine/controllers to
drive the printhead at any one or more of higher speed, higher input resolution, higher outlet
resolution or wider format.

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